

App. No. 10/594,692
Office Action Dated May 31, 2007

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Claims 1-5 and 9-10 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 11-17 are new.

Listing of Claims:

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A method for activating plant defense and resistance reactions against biotic or abiotic stresses, ~~wherein it comprising: [[es]] the application administering, to said plants, of an effective amount of (1) ulvans, in particular extracted from green algae of the genus *Ulva* or *Enteromorpha*, or of (2) a reaction product obtained from the treatment of green algae of the genus *Ulva* or *Enteromorpha* by hydrolysis or enzymatic hydrolysis ulvan-derived oligosaccharides.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the application administering to the plants is carried out via the leaves or via the roots.

8. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the effective amount given to the plants is from 0.1 g to 100 g per liter, and preferably of the order of 1 g per liter, when applied in liquid form via the leaves, in nutritive solutions for the roots (~~hydroponics, dropwise, etc.~~) or in solutions for seed or post-harvest treatment, or else from 10 to 1000 g per hectare, and preferably of the order of 200 g per hectare, when applied in solid form in pulverulent or granulated products.

9-10. (Canceled)

11. (new) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the nutritive solutions for the roots is hydroponics or dropwise.

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12. (new) A method of using an amount of (1) ulvans extracted from green algae of the genus *Ulva* or *Enteromorpha* or (2) a reaction product obtained from the treatment of green algae of the genus *Ulva* or *Enteromorpha* by hydrolysis or enzymatic hydrolysis, sufficient for protecting a plant, comprising:

determining an amount of extracted ulvans or the reaction product sufficient to stimulate expression of genes involved in plant protection; and

preparing the extracted ulvans or the reaction product for delivering the extracted ulvans or the reaction product to the plant.

13. (new) A method according to claim 12, wherein determining the amount of the extracted ulvans or the reaction product includes

selecting at least one gene of the plant that facilitates protection of the plant and

determining expression levels of the at least one gene in the plant relative to the amount of the extracted ulvans or the reaction product administered to the plant.

14. (new) A method according to claim 12, wherein the ulvans extracted from algae are chosen from the group consisting of the following species: *Ulva armoricana*, *Ulva rigida*, *Ulva rotundata*, *Ulva lactuca*, *Enteromorpha intestinalis*, and *Enteromorpha compressa*.

15. (new) A method according to claim 14, wherein the ulvans extracted from algae are chosen from the group consisting of the following species: *Ulva armoricana*, *Enteromorpha intestinalis* and *Enteromorpha compressa*

16. (new) A method according to claim 12, wherein the extracts are obtained by a method including: washing, milling, and solid-liquid separation.

17. (new) A method according to claim 16, wherein the method of obtaining the extracts further comprises fractionation and concentration.